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Chairman: Mr. Barnwell (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) noted that the session was opening in a new environment of uncertainty provoked by the terrorist attacks of 11 September. Those tragic events had changed the situation. Globalization and interdependence had shown their limits and cooperation appeared more than ever to be the only solution to international economic and financial problems.

2. The world economic outlook was not very good, above all for the developing countries. The economic slowdown had had an impact on world trade, negating the growth and development efforts of many countries. As a result of the decline in exports, the low prices for commodities and the stagnation of financial flows, in particular, the developing countries were suffering from the consequences of the economic slowdown experienced by the developed countries. The financial crisis which had arisen at the end of the previous decade had been exacerbated by the effects of the economic slowdown in the developed countries and the repercussions of the tragic events which had occurred in the United States.

3. In the current particularly unfavourable context, the International Conference on Financing for Development would have the task of redefining the international economic, financial and trade stakes and taking advantage of a unique opportunity to establish a new world alliance for development financing. It was important to cooperate to find common solutions that would make it possible to reduce the vulnerability of the economies of the developing countries — which was linked to the instability of external resources and inequitable access to private capital markets — and to strengthen the world financial system so that it would serve the interests of all and lead to the attainment of the development goals established by the international community. In that connection, his delegation drew attention to the interesting initiatives set out in the report of the High-Level Panel on Financing for Development (A/55/1000), to which the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would give serious consideration.

4. The main difficulty for the developing countries, in particular middle-income countries such as Colombia, was how to achieve the economic growth and sustainable development goals in a somewhat unfavourable environment characterized by globalization and interdependence. Colombia had modernized its institutions, opened up its economy, energized its private sector, decentralized its authorities and increased the participation of civil society with a view to taking advantage of the possibilities offered by globalization. It recognized that each country was responsible for its own development, but noted that interdependence resulted in countries being more affected by the actions of one particular country and that globalization accentuated the problems of contemporary society. Joint action must therefore be undertaken urgently to reduce the impact of that situation on the economies of all countries.

5. The next Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) must give priority to providing all countries with the means of achieving true economic growth and genuine social development. Protectionist barriers must be abolished in order to facilitate access to the markets for commodities from the developing countries.

6. With regard to sustainable development, the international community should also evaluate the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which had taken place almost 10 years earlier. The progress achieved since the adoption of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 was limited. Colombia remained determined to apply the Rio principles and to attain the targets set forth in Agenda 21. It had already done much, but there was still a long way to go to achieve sustainable development. The success of the World Summit on Sustainable Development would depend on the commitments which Member States would make. In that connection, Colombia had already planned to carry out a national evaluation.

7. The triennial review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system was a major theme of the Committee's work. Those activities, which were neutral and universal, did not always receive the financial support necessary if the efforts made were to succeed. His delegation hoped that the triennial review would be constructive and that the commitments made by all in the Millennium Declaration would receive sufficient support for the United Nations to be able to help countries to achieve their development goals.

8. **Mr. de Moura** associated his delegation with the statement made the previous day by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

9. Uncertainty was a feature of the current world economy and the terrorist attacks of 11 September had aggravated the trend towards a slowing down of economic growth, trade and foreign direct investment. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had revised downwards its forecast for global economic growth in 2001. The World Bank was also pessimistic and had affirmed that the developing countries would suffer the worst effects of the economic downturn.

10. In the era of globalization, the only way to deal with such a difficult situation was with a combination of appropriate domestic policies and international cooperation and by taking into account the interests of all. It was therefore crucial to strengthen the participation of developing countries in the international decision-making processes, especially in financial institutions.

11. Brazil had made the transition to a floating exchange rate regime without any adverse impact on prices, which were controlled by an inflation-targeting framework. It had strengthened its fiscal policies; exports and industrial production had increased and urban unemployment had dropped. It was confident that it would be able to meet the challenges that lay ahead; however, in a globalized world, an enabling international environment was crucial to economic growth and stability.

12. The new round of multilateral trade negotiations could play a key role in revitalizing international trade, provided that the focus was on development. Unfortunately, sectors of export interest to developing countries had not been subject to the same rules as other sectors. Protectionism remained widespread and continued to hinder the exports of developing countries. In the agricultural sector, developed countries were allowed to heavily subsidize their products, thereby creating unfair market conditions in areas in which developing countries were competitive. It was therefore hard to conceive that a significant number of countries would support the launching of the new round of trade negotiations unless agreement was reached on a precise and ambitious mandate for the agricultural sector. His delegation would also like to see a re-evaluation of anti-dumping rules; those rules had been devised as an instrument against unfair trade practices but were, in fact, being used for protectionist purposes.

13. His delegation was also concerned at the imbalance in the relationship between the Agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) and access to medicine; intellectual property rules must strike a balance between the goals of the private sector and that of the public interest, namely making life-saving drugs available for the population.

14. International cooperation was another tool that was being affected by the present economic slowdown. The decline in official development assistance was worrisome, for some countries could neither attract private investment nor borrow from private banks. The decrease in official development assistance had also harmed the operational activities of the United Nations, notwithstanding the consistent efforts of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations to achieve a more efficient and results-oriented performance.

15. Debt relief was another way of assisting the developing countries. His delegation supported the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and believed that two principles should guide that initiative. Firstly, the resources freed up by debt relief should be utilized to finance poverty reduction programmes. Secondly, the initiative must be funded by new and additional resources, which meant that they should not be taken from other initiatives for low-income countries or from increases in interest rates for countries borrowing from international financial institutions.

16. Given that the current difficult situation could be overcome only by a combination of adequate domestic policies and an enabling international environment, the Committee must review the main economic issues and identify areas for cooperation.

17. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), after associating himself fully with the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he would like to make some points about the specific problems of landlocked developing countries.

18. While globalization offered hopes for prosperity, these hopes did not always materialize since, unfortunately, everybody did not have the same opportunities. Globalization benefited only the rich and

powerful, who represented but a small proportion of the world's population. The unfair world economic order disregarded the interests and concerns of the majority of the world's population, namely developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. That injustice must be corrected immediately. Globalization could be managed and therefore must be managed in such a way as to ensure that everyone benefited. To do that, the international community must move from rhetoric to action.

19. The group of landlocked developing countries was recognized by the United Nations as one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of countries. The basic problem of those countries was their lack of direct access to the sea and their remoteness from major international markets. Their high transit transport costs made their exports less competitive. The specific problems of landlocked developing countries were not new and efforts had been made in the past to address them. However, concrete actions in favour of landlocked developing countries had remained limited and ineffective. A Meeting of Governmental Experts had been institutionalized in 1993 to discuss the issue and find solutions to it. In 1995, the General Assembly had adopted a Global Framework for transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries and the donor community.

20. The consideration of the specific problems of landlocked developing countries should be at a ministerial level where political commitments could be made. His delegation therefore strongly supported the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts on the convening of an international ministerial meeting on transit transport cooperation and appealed to all the stakeholders to lend their support and cooperation to that meeting and to its preparatory process. The meeting should draw on experiences with respect to transit trade cooperation and lessons learned from global conferences. The findings and outcomes of various subregional meetings held on the question should be utilized as inputs for the background documentation for the preparatory work.

21. The issue of trade was directly related to the specific problems of landlocked developing countries. While trade liberalization had offered opportunities for export expansion, landlocked developing countries had not been able to take advantage of them, since they had been marginalized for a long time. In order to allow landlocked developing countries to be integrated into the world trading system, differential treatment measures in their favour should be put into place and their situation should be seriously considered at the Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Conference on Financing for Development with a view to mobilizing the necessary support to address that problem. Efficient trade facilitation measures as well as a broader generalized system of preferences would be necessary. Since WTO was aware of the disadvantaged position of landlocked developing countries and their inability to meet its conditions, it should allow those countries to join the organization.

22. With regard to financing for development, the International Conference on Financing for Development should address all aspects of the issue in a holistic manner and should lead to a new paradigm for mobilizing financial resources for development, taking into account both the role of trade as the most important multi-dimensional mechanism in that field and the specific needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged countries.

23. **Mr. Requeijo** (Cuba) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

24. Despite a rapid growth in trade, finance and information and technology, poverty, marginalization and poor sanitation were steadily spreading. Moreover, official development assistance (ODA) was shrinking, commodity prices were declining and the external debt burden had reached unsustainable levels.

25. Globalization had aggravated the imbalances in international economic relations. Developing countries remained marginalized and did not benefit from the advantages of globalization. The technological gap between developing and developed countries was growing wider. An overwhelming majority of Internet users, cellular telephone service subscribers and Internet servers were located in developed countries. Millions of people were unaware of the technological revolution and lived in conditions of extreme poverty, without health care and education. A third of the world's population did not have electricity, and millions of people throughout the world still did not have access to basic drugs such as penicillin.

26. The international community must take decisive measures to address that situation and measures should be taken as a matter of urgency to integrate developing countries into the world economy on a sustainable basis. They should stop being passive actors and be allowed to participate actively in the world decision-making process.

27. The issue of financing for development had become even more relevant than before, given the new realities required by globalization. The holding of the International Conference on Financing for Development was an urgent matter for all developing countries. It should make it possible to achieve progress in the area of international economic relations, allow all stakeholders, including developing countries, to interact with each other, to mobilize fresh resources that matched the needs of those countries, and to revive official development assistance.

28. The consideration of the implementation of the outcomes of the Rio Summit constituted a major challenge that all States Members of the United Nations should endeavour to meet in a concerted and effective manner. The decisions adopted at all the meetings on the environment had not been enough to tackle all the real and urgent problems with respect to sustainable development, which were becoming worse, especially in the developing countries. His delegation trusted that the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in South Africa, in 2002, would come up with concrete solutions in that regard.

29. The fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, which would be held in the near future, should address the principal concerns of developing countries with a view to integrating them truly into the new world economy and future multilateral trade negotiations. It was hoped that that meeting would lead to the adoption of specific measures in favour of developing countries and that the developed countries would respect their commitments to grant them special and differentiated treatment, especially by opening their markets to the products and sectors which particularly interested the developing countries. Within the framework of the trade liberalization that was advocated so much at the current time, there was a proliferation of coercive unilateral economic measures dictated by the developed countries with regard to developing countries for purely political purposes. Cuba had been the victim for more than 40 years of a global economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government and strengthened by the Torricelli and Helms-Burton laws in order to starve the Cuban people into surrendering. The Committee should once again condemn those acts since they constituted a blatant violation of the rules of international law, particularly the principles governing trade between nations.

30. Furthermore, in view of the constant decrease in the basic resources necessary for United Nations funds and programmes, the Committee should consider the triennial review of United Nations operational activities, a matter which the Cuban delegation would follow with very particular interest. Numerous reforms had been conducted in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of funds and programmes and to make them more attractive for donors. It was necessary henceforth to evaluate their impact in the field because that process would make it possible to stimulate operational activities and strengthen funds and programmes.

31. **Mr. Aho-Glele** (Benin) said that his delegation associated itself with the statements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and by Bangladesh (on behalf of the least developed countries).

32. With regard to economic, financial and development questions, the United Nations was focusing more and more attention on the multifarious problems encountered by part of its most vulnerable members, namely the least developed countries, African States, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

33. Benin was pleased to note that various action programmes had been drawn up in order to address the specific concerns of those countries. Nevertheless, those countries required, at the level of the United Nations system, adequate means and an adapted organizational system for coordinating, following up, mobilizing and allocating those means.

34. While the political will guaranteeing adequate means, in principle, already existed and had been expressed through various specific action programmes, the organizational systems for them should be harnessed in order to better adapt the level of available resources and the objectives for which they were earmarked. Owing to the lack of an adequate organizational system, many funds were not mobilized, a large number of available funds were mismanaged or wasted, and adopted programmes were not executed.

35. In that connection, his delegation was pleased with the results of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which had adopted a new mechanism for implementing, following up, coordinating and evaluating the action programme drawn up, which, if rigorously set up, would make it possible to further adopt and better coordinate the various interventions with regard to their objectives.

36. It was hoped that the project to set up the office of a high representative of the Secretary-General for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States would succeed. In that regard, he welcomed the decision by the European Union to support that request on the part of the least developed countries, which had been put forward by the Group of 77, and he hoped that it would be unanimously supported.

37. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Referring to the tragic events that had taken place in the United States of America on 11 September, he reiterated his Government's commitment to work closely with all United Nations bodies in a concerted search for appropriate means to eliminate international terrorism. In that regard and as had already been recognized in that debate, there was a need to carefully consider the root causes of terrorism, particularly underdevelopment and poverty.

38. As his delegation had already stated at the recent high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, Africa had given serious thought to the fundamental questions underlying the problem of the huge disparities in development between the North and the South and the persistence of poverty and underdevelopment on the African continent. That had given rise to the New African Initiative, whose objectives were to eradicate poverty on the continent and to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, and thereby halt the marginalization of the continent in the globalization process. In that regard, it was important to promote peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management as well as regional cooperation and economic integration as preconditions for development. African leaders had pledged to work individually and collectively to promote those principles in their countries and regions.

39. Africa had also determined its own priority sectors in order to achieve those goals, which entailed bridging gaps in infrastructure, particularly in respect of information and communication technologies and the transfer of technology, promoting human development, particularly in the areas of health, education and culture, encouraging the development of agriculture and the diversification of production and exports, and enhancing market access and resource mobilization at the national and international levels.

40. The African countries could not meet those challenges without the support of the international community. The New African Initiative had already gained the support of the Group of Eight and other developed countries. The States Members of the United Nations had also endorsed it, in particular in the high-level ministerial declaration of the Economic and Social Council and at the meeting of the open-ended working group on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. In considering the special needs of Africa, the Committee should not forget that the New African Initiative provided the framework for implementation and for the evaluation of all future United Nations activities in the continent.

41. The themes of the International Conference on Financing for Development were central to the development of the African countries. The mobilization of additional resources, both domestic and foreign, was essential in order to achieve higher levels of growth and more effective poverty eradication; private capital flows, and the promotion of trade, which would generate foreign capital, particularly in countries which had not been able to attract international financial flows, were equally important. The removal of tariff peaks and other indirect trade barriers to products from developing countries was the best way of assisting those countries in promoting their own development. South Africa hoped that the fourth ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization in Doha would be able to launch a trade round which would address the importance of trade for development.

42. The International Conference on Financing for Development would set the stage for strengthened international cooperation for development and a new international approach to financing for development.

Issues such as external debt relief and foreign direct investment flows should be seen from a new angle; his delegation was prepared to participate fully in a definition of the parameters and priorities which should underpin those new approaches.

43. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in South Africa, should also reinvigorate the commitment of the international community to the goals of sustainable development and the integration of economically efficient, socially equitable and environmentally sound development policies. It should therefore make a visible contribution to the achievement of sustainable development objectives by developing countries and the reversal of their marginalization. Poverty remained one of the biggest threats to sustainable development; the Southern African Development Community had therefore proposed that the theme of the summit should be: "Poverty eradication as a key to sustainable development". In addition, the World Summit should take special initiatives in the areas of water, energy, biodiversity, food security, desertification and land degradation. Despite the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and at other international conferences, the resources needed by developing countries to achieve sustainable development remained inadequate. The World Summit should therefore address that issue and that of the governance of sustainable development. It should also contribute to the fulfilment of international development goals and the outcome of the Millennium Summit. Furthermore, it should articulate a new vision for the governance of sustainable development. In that respect, the ongoing review of international environmental governance would be an important component, particularly in respect of the need to improve efficiency and address problems created by the duplication of structures.

44. The Committee would also be focusing on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The declining levels of ODA had eroded the financial base for those activities, which affected the ability of the system to assist developing countries. However, his delegation was encouraged by recent statements made by some developed countries which had recommitted themselves to reaching the ODA targets as soon as possible. Developing countries should clearly not become dependent on ODA, but its importance in the short to medium term and the catalytic role it played in mobilizing other resources for development must be recognized.

45. The need for enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies that dealt with cross-cutting issues was therefore even more critical. In that respect, the expansion of the United Nations Development Group would contribute to a coordinated approach to the work of the Organization at the field level. The full involvement of Governments of programme countries in the formulation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks was also of vital importance.

46. The fight against poverty would not be effective unless serious efforts were made to address the needs of the least developed countries. His delegation therefore reaffirmed its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and would strive to ensure the effective follow-up without which that objective would not be achieved.

47. **Mr. Olobo** (Uganda) condemned the acts of terrorism committed against the United States of America in particular, and the international community in general, and hoped that the perpetrators of that heinous crime would be punished.

48. His delegation also supported the statements made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Bangladesh on behalf of the least developed countries and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the landlocked developing countries.

49. His delegation hoped that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the discussions held in Geneva on the development of Africa and the upcoming conference on financing for development and summit on sustainable development would help address the issues of poverty eradication, the external debt burden, diminishing financial flows, the mobilization of financial resources, increased market access, globalization and development.

50. The current world economy appeared vulnerable and a number of the major industrialized countries were experiencing higher unemployment and declines in growth, capital spending and industrial production. Those trends would no doubt have a negative impact on developing countries, reducing their prospects for development and integration in the global economy.

The international community should collectively engage in a search for solutions.

51. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326). As indicated in the report, hard decisions and courageous reforms would be required, particularly in areas of policy, including transparent and accountable governance, and with regard to the mobilization of additional resources, debt relief and market access for exports. In that connection, priority should be given to the particular concerns of the least developed countries and the African countries.

52. Uganda welcomed the commitments made by the international community at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and hoped that they would translate into the implementation of the Programme of Action for 2001-2010. While the primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rested with those countries themselves, their efforts must be supplemented by concrete and substantial support from the international community, in a spirit of shared responsibility and genuine partnership which included civil society and the private sector. The follow-up and implementation processes of the Programme of Action should be strengthened substantially in order to ensure more positive achievements by the end of the decade.

53. External debt remained one of the greatest hindrances to the development of the developing countries, and to rapid economic growth and poverty eradication. Debt relief must therefore be a high priority of the international community; his delegation believed that efforts to that end should be further strengthened. The failure of some of the more seriously indebted countries to generate sustained growth and development, one of the root causes of the problem of indebtedness, should be tackled in a broader development context.

54. While the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC) had been a real boon to those countries which qualified for debt relief, there were still problems which should be addressed in order to maximize the benefits of those initiatives. Funding must be found in order to implement fully the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. Debt relief was one way to free resources for investment and poverty eradication, but, if it was genuinely to improve economic and social conditions in the poorest countries, it must be accompanied by sound domestic economic and budgetary policies, supported by the civil society of the countries concerned. The best long-term solution, however, remained full cancellation of the debt of all least developed countries.

55. The New African Initiative adopted by the Organization of African Unity should provide a more concrete platform for the promotion of a stronger development framework for cooperation between Africa and the rest of the world. By taking full responsibility for their own destiny, African countries should be able to establish a truly viable partnership with the rest of the world.

56. Uganda believed that trade offered one concrete tool for the mobilization of the necessary resources for growth and development. The pursuit of the trade agenda should continue to focus primarily on development, and the formulation of trade policies at all levels should be complementary and coordinated with similar actions in the areas of finance, investment and development cooperation. Market access for products from developing countries must be improved, and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha must give priority attention to issues of concern to those countries.

57. The South Summit held in Havana in April 2000, while stressing the importance of guaranteeing preferential access to technology, had called on the developing countries to harness cooperatively their own scientific, technological and human resources. Taking into account the increasing role of information and communication technologies, the need to bridge the digital divide in all spheres of human activity had been regarded as a key factor in the development of developing countries.

58. His delegation hoped that the International Conference on Financing for Development would make a real difference in reducing poverty and increasing access to financial resources, particularly in Africa. The sombre assessment of the economic prospects for the decade given by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs should compel all countries to reassess their approaches to international cooperation for development.

59. **Mr. Kulyk** (Ukraine) said that one of the global challenges facing the international community at the beginning of the new century was to ensure that the

benefits of globalization were made available to all. Recent experience had demonstrated that the processes of globalization had a huge impact on economic and social conditions, especially in the countries in transition. Consequently, the need to find solutions to the problems created by globalization imposed a difficult task on both Governments and international organizations. One of the outstanding issues was how better to reconcile the views and needs of all States in the course of elaborating a new international financial system that was responsive to the priorities of growth and development and promoted economic and social equity. The United Nations should play a major role in organizing and facilitating policy dialogue and consensus-building among the relevant stakeholders. His delegation hoped that the International Conference on Financing for Development would help to mobilize the needed domestic and external resources. It was therefore important to ensure that all the parties concerned were involved in the preparatory process. Also, the final documents of the Conference should reflect the different approaches to financing for development that had been proposed, including those corresponding to the specific situation of the countries in transition, and provide a realistic plan for mobilizing financial resources.

60. Another acute problem currently facing the international community was the struggle to eradicate poverty. Poverty affected all nations, including the prosperous ones, and demanded a solution on a global scale. If the full potential of market resources and new technologies to bridge the growing gap between rich and poor was to be realized, greater cooperation and international dialogue were needed. In that regard, the United Nations and its Member States ought to do their utmost to achieve the Millennium Declaration targets, in the economic area in particular.

61. The economies in transition had registered a significant recovery in the period 2000-2001. Introducing sweeping reforms, most of the countries in transition had established the basic institutions of a market economy and liberalized their domestic markets and foreign trade. Nevertheless, many of them were still finding it difficult to restructure their economies and correct macroeconomic imbalances, and the difficulties would only be aggravated by the deceleration of world economic growth. Any rise in domestic consumer demand would be insufficient to offset the diminishing foreign direct investments and trade flows. For Ukraine, the years 2000-2001 had been a turning point in the dynamics of its economic development. After a long crisis, its macroeconomic parameters had tangibly improved. Next year, his Government planned to increase social spending under the State budget. The main task now was to ensure that economic growth would be sustainable and translated into benefits for all citizens. The Government also attached great importance to Ukraine's accession to WTO. The international community should for its part continue to support the countries in transition in their efforts to spur economic growth, eradicate poverty and resolve environmental problems by, specifically, improving their access to markets, increasing transparency and predictability in trade relations, reducing the risk of protectionism and expanding their capacity to integrate themselves into the international economic context. The vital importance of non-discriminatory terms of access could not be overemphasized.

62. Since the previous triennial policy review, there had been some progress in strengthening the United Nations system of operational activities but much more remained to be done. The international community should, in particular, endeavour to ensure the effectiveness of operational activities, maintain their dynamic institutional structure and improve the partnership with all players in the development process at the national level. In that connection, Ukraine stressed the importance of enhancing the United Nations development system's capacity to respond appropriately and with the necessary flexibility to the needs of beneficiary countries, including the specific needs of the countries in transition. There, the operational activities should focus on promoting market reforms, including the development of entrepreneurship, providing technical assistance and advice in areas like the building of an institutional infrastructure or a trade-related national capacity, ensuring the sustainability of macroeconomic reforms and accelerating the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy.

63. Although 15 years had passed since the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the problems involved in managing the aftermath were still acute and represented a serious obstacle to achieving the goals of sustainable development in Ukraine. Given the long-term nature of those consequences, the United Nations

should continue to coordinate the international action to mitigate them and analyse them.

64. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should be an occasion for reaffirming the commitment of the participating countries to a sustainable development based on economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Ukraine was ready to participate actively in the preparatory process, recognizing the need to adopt action-oriented decisions aimed at effective implementation of Agenda 21 and improvement of global environmental governance. The adoption of the main elements of the Bonn Agreement could not fail to inspire Governments to bring to a successful conclusion the long negotiations on implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be able to forge a compromise on the outstanding issues.

65. **Mr. Andino Salazar** (El Salvador), associating himself with the statement made by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Second Committee was beginning its work at a difficult time when the international community should be taking action. In the wake of the Millennium Summit, the Committee had initiated preparations for two major encounters: the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which would furnish an opportunity to meet the objectives of sustainable development set in the Millennium Declaration.

66. It was with those objectives in mind that his Government had taken part in the fifteenth Presidential Summit of the Rio Group, which had recognized that the region had made enormous efforts to restructure its economic policies, often at the cost of great sacrifice on the part of its population, but that economic growth had declined as a result of the slowdown in the world economy. In order to tackle that situation, the Presidents had adopted a decision in support of the International Conference on Financing for Development, reasserting the central role to be played by the United Nations in creating an international economic architecture capable of meeting development priorities and ensuring that all countries could profit fairly from the benefits of globalization.

67. At the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of Eight, held at Genoa in June 2001, his Government had had an opportunity to express its concerns vis-à-vis the serious problems that developing countries experienced in making progress in an increasingly interdependent world. El Salvador's experience was no different from that of many other countries. In its concern to become an integral part of the international economy, the Government had taken steps to promote the free circulation of the dollar, the opening-up of markets, foreign investment, regional integration and the ratification of free trade treaties. UNDP's global Human Development Report 2001 confirmed that the economic reforms initiated by El Salvador since 1989 had, inter alia, made it possible to curb inflation, simplify the tax system, privatize certain economic activities, liberalize prices and interest rates and eliminate some protectionist measures. At the same time, it had carried out social and democratic reforms which had led to greater consolidation of peace and transformation of the country in a period of 10 years. According to the report, El Salvador's human development indicator had increased by more than 10 points, with average annual growth of 4.5 per cent and per capita GDP growth of 2.4 per cent. Inflation had fallen from 24.5 per cent in the 1980s to 2.5 per cent in the past three years, exports had tripled and poverty had dropped 18.2 percentage points, from 65.7 per cent in 1991 to 47.5 per cent in 1999. Much remained to be done, however; poverty still existed and was particularly aggravated by the effects of earthquakes which had caused large-scale damage in education, health and housing infrastructures and in the production sector.

68. Like other developing countries, El Salvador must make a major effort to stimulate growth and create a favourable climate for investment since it needed first and foremost to find solutions to the formidable challenges of development, although the role of international cooperation could never be stressed enough. No domestic effort could succeed if the difficulties of developing countries were not taken into account. The Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development would identify the procedure for forging a new world alliance that could mobilize resources for development in the most favourable conditions possible. His Government hoped that the Conference would also make it possible to strengthen the world's financial architecture so that developing countries would have not only duties but

also rights in an international system characterized by globalization and interdependence. In that regard, El Salvador was in favour of initiating a new round of trade negotiations which would take the interests of all participants into account and hoped that the necessary consensuses could be established to ensure greater success for the fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be held in Doha (Qatar) in November 2001.

69. His Government also wished to express its support for the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It had taken part in the preparations by hosting a subregional meeting for Central America during which the countries of the region had expressed concern about the difficulties of implementing Agenda 21 nine years after the adoption of the Rio Declaration, partly because of the lack of financial resources and technology transfers on preferential terms. It was hoped that the Rio+10 review would not lead to renegotiation of the Rio agreements but would note the difficulties of implementing Agenda 21 in accordance with the principle of joint but differentiated responsibilities.

70. **Mr. Vencel** (Slovakia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union but wished to make some additional observations.

71. The eradication of poverty and reduction of vulnerability were major problems affecting most aspects of development. The poor were particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, natural disasters and disease. Poverty was also rife in the wealthy countries and engendered fanaticism and terrorism. It was therefore the urgent duty of the international community to combat two current threats to development and common security — poverty and HIV/AIDS. Governments themselves must be the driving force in pursuing a policy that would embrace the economic and social factors affecting development. Good governance was crucial for effective action targeting the causes of poverty. Human rights must be respected and an adequate legal framework developed; there was a need to apply sound macroeconomic policies, combat corruption and strengthen human and institutional capacities, both nationally and on the basis of international cooperation.

72. At the same time, the international community should make greater efforts to provide an enabling international economic environment. The multilateral trading system should be reformed to make it more open, equitable and non-discriminatory. UNCTAD played a unique role in the United Nations system in that regard. Slovakia had been one of the founding members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its trading policy fully complied with WTO rules and principles. His delegation strongly believed that the next round of multilateral trade negotiations would set an agenda that would clearly reflect the interests of the poorest countries.

73. Regional economic cooperation was of tremendous importance for Slovakia, which actively supported regional agencies both within the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, and outside it, such as the Central European Initiative.

74. It was in the common interest to promote the long-term stability of the global financial system and strengthen every country's institutional capacities in the field of finance. Strengthening and securing domestic banking systems could play a crucial role in mobilizing domestic resources for investment and development. His delegation expected that the preparatory process for the International Conference on Financing for Development would contribute to the implementation of the internationally agreed targets and strategies for sustainable development set at the Millennium Summit. Some transition economies faced chronic economic and social problems which were essentially related to underdevelopment. The International Conference would provide an excellent opportunity to identify the key factors for economic development and poverty alleviation. Efforts should be made to increase the efficiency of assistance. In view of the heterogeneity of levels of development and the associated diversity of problems, official development assistance and debt relief should be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of individual countries.

75. The follow-up processes of world conferences were an important part of the efforts to improve the relevance not only of the General Assembly but of the United Nations as a whole. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of a resolution making the Council responsible for the regular assessment and coordination

of the implementation of the action programmes of the major United Nations conferences. The partnership of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs), was also important. It was therefore essential to ensure that NGOs could participate fully in the work of the special sessions.

76. His delegation would participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It recognized that the concept of sustainable development was taking on increasing importance in the context of the United Nations and it remained committed to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. It would also like to see the work done under the environmental conventions better coordinated, with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

77. **Ms. Raguž** (Croatia) said, with reference to the overview of the global economic outlook presented by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, that the dynamic nature of the international economy clearly had a continued impact on the living conditions of people all over the world. The results had not always been those predicted or desired, but they were all too visible. New manifestations of vulnerability brought about by globalization should be a cause for concern to all. The Millennium Summit and the commitments embodied in the Millennium Declaration had provided the international community with the opportunity to take stock and chart the future. The next step was to translate the resulting programmes and strategies into action. The measures to be taken should, however, be reviewed in the light of both current and evolving challenges. The underlying fear was that the tragic events of 11 September could trigger a new form of instability in the world economy, characterized by isolationist policies, with dire consequences for developing countries. Nevertheless, those events alone could not stop the continuing process of globalization. The Millennium Summit and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had, indeed, highlighted the fact that the disparity between rich and poor countries was increasing and that extreme poverty constituted one of the most urgent challenges of the twenty-first century.

78. The endeavour to reverse the marginalization of developing countries, to promote their sustained economic growth and sustainable development and to facilitate their integration into the world economy had led the international community to search for integral and balanced global arrangements. Its universal nature enabled the United Nations to play a pivotal role in international action in a continuously changing global context by building the necessary consensus for practical reforms. However, cooperation with other international and regional organizations should be strengthened in a non-hierarchical way. The proposal that regional dimensions should be integrated more closely into United Nations operational activities was a step in the right direction.

79. The implementation of the goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration would provide further impetus to cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions. Furthermore, her delegation would continue to support the Council's efforts to work with other international institutions, such as WTO, and improve its outreach to civil society and the private sector. The advantages provided by the Council's functional commissions and by UNCTAD should be utilized to the full. In that regard, her delegation considered the Council's decision to undertake a comprehensive examination of its working methods at its next substantive session most timely.

80. For Croatia, as for many other countries, globalization had contributed to the determination of political priorities and had made accession to various international and regional organizations dealing with economic, trade, security and political issues a top priority. Some of the significant initiatives which had been taken in that respect had been the achievement of membership of WTO in 2000 and the entry into force of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union, as well as the negotiations relating to membership of the Central European Free Trade Agreement. Those measures and other initiatives would result in the liberalization of 80 per cent of Croatia's international trade by the beginning of 2002.

81. Full integration into the world economy required, among other things, continued investment in the form of both foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance (ODA). Foreign direct investment should not be considered as a replacement for ODA. It had different motivations and objectives. At the same time, the multilateral trading system continued to develop. Her delegation hoped that renewed commitment to the establishment of a transparent, equitable and rule-based trade system was

not merely an exercise in rhetoric and that restored momentum for real action would be discussed at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference.

82. The consolidation of a global agenda for collective action in mobilizing resources would require a particular effort at the International Conference on Financing for Development. If that effort were to be successful, there would have to be a commitment to maintain true partnerships based on equitable and transparent principles, with the participation of all the relevant players. The mobilization of women in development and their access to financial resources should also be given appropriate attention.

83. Information and communications technologies could be a very effective tool for development and empowerment, but they should not be used at the expense of the principles governing sustainable development and environmental protection.

84. Finally, the international community would have an important task to fulfil in preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, namely to reaffirm at the highest political level its commitment to North-South cooperation in accelerating the implementation of Agenda 21.

85. **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and associating herself with the statements made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that she wished to highlight economic issues that were of crucial importance to the Caribbean region.

86. The CARICOM States had welcomed the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership. The chosen theme, "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century", was especially opportune as it served to underscore the necessity of fostering growth in developing countries with full recognition of the interdependence of the prosperity and well-being of the countries of the North and South.

87. Despite the protestations of its most ardent defenders, globalization had had a chequered history, especially in developing countries. While they were aware of the tremendous opportunities offered to them, particularly in accelerating trade and investment flows, the countries of the Caribbean also knew that globalization created as many problems as opportunities. Some countries had experienced growth and expansion while others had not. Income disparities had increased within countries and between one country and another. Unemployment had worsened in many cases and the gap between developed and developing countries had widened rapidly in recent years. Many developing countries found themselves in difficulties because they were devoting most of their earnings to debt servicing to the detriment of vital development sectors such as health, education and infrastructure. If the process of globalization was to succeed for the benefit of the majority, a new regime of international economic governance had to be set in place which would ensure all countries of the world an equitable share in the advantages it brought.

88. At the Millennium Assembly the international community had laid the foundations for a people-centred development agenda to improve the quality of life of the greatest number, particularly the poor. Since then the participants in the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had reaffirmed the commitments aimed at eradicating extreme poverty. The time had come to act on them.

89. The CARICOM States set great store by the contribution which the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development could make to the integration of developing countries into the world economy: they were hoping that it would address national, international and systemic issues relating to financing for development in a holistic manner within the context of globalization and interdependence, and would address the mobilization of the resources necessary to reach the goals for 2015 set by the Millennium Assembly. The broad themes identified by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the general thrust of the recommendations set out in the Facilitator's first draft went in the right direction.

90. While it was for governments to determine national policies to mobilize resources, it was essential that safety nets should be developed to cushion the effects of economic reforms on those least able to participate in the global economy. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on the work of the Organization (A/56/1), "[e]nsuring gender equality and women's empowerment are equally critical to the

reduction of poverty" and tribute should therefore be paid to those funds, programmes and agencies which focused on strengthening women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power and enhancing Governments' capacities to manage economic transitions without marginalizing poor women. Whereas, in the past, official development assistance (ODA) had bridged the resource gap in a number of countries, between 1999 and 2000 ODA from countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had fallen by 6 per cent and future prospects remained too uncertain to ensure the reliability of ODA in the long term. For that reason, it was particularly important to develop effective partnerships between the Bretton Woods institutions, regional development banks and the United Nations development agencies in order to improve the efficiency of service to developing countries.

91. Two crucial topics which should be given close attention in the context of the debate on financing for development were trade and debt relief. With regard to the former, small economies, such as those in the Caribbean, were heavily dependent on equitable terms of trade. Future multilateral trade negotiations must therefore address existing inequities and disparities. Any WTO "development round" should focus on the removal of policies that constrained developing-country exports of agricultural products and labour-intensive manufacturing. There was also a need for special and differential treatment for the most vulnerable countries, in order to ensure their survival in the global system of trade and finance. Initiatives aiming at such an outcome should be on the agenda of the fourth Ministerial Meeting of WTO, to be held in Doha, Qatar.

92. The debt burden, meanwhile, prevented developing countries and countries in transition from reducing poverty or reaching other development goals. It was therefore particularly urgent to implement the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, without, however, compromising other ODA flows, and to help countries to achieve their desired economic and social development. Bilateral and multilateral creditors should pursue debt relief vigorously and expeditiously, giving particular priority to the poorest countries but also taking into account the concerns of middle-income countries.

93. The new moves to improve the condition of the poor and promote sustainable development should involve a participatory approach among Governments, local stakeholders, the private sector and community groups, together with the indispensable support of the United Nations system.

94. **Mr. Lee** Ho-jin (Republic of Korea) said he was gratified that the General Assembly had resumed its work, which had been disrupted by the heinous terrorist attacks on the host country on 11 September, and he expressed his country's firm commitment to join in the efforts of the international community to combat world terrorism.

95. With reference to the *World-Economic and Social Survey 2001*, he said that the current slowdown, which was largely due to excess investments and product inventories in manufacturing sectors, had shrunk the import demand of the developed countries, thus limiting export opportunities for developing countries. Since globalization intensified interdependence between economies, it had far-reaching implications for the development process, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.

96. Although globalization offered many benefits, it also had negative effects, such as the marginalization of developing countries, the transmission of diseases across borders, money laundering and international organized crime. The Asian financial crisis had shown the detrimental effects of contagion to emerging economies. Illegal activities associated with the progress of information and communication technologies were also a matter for concern.

97. In addressing such challenges, Governments had a crucial role to play in providing a proper environment to prevent or suppress the undesirable effects of globalization; the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and market mechanisms should be in place. It was encouraging to note that many developing countries had taken proactive steps to improve domestic governance. International organizations, such as the United Nations system, should work towards more efficient coordination with others in that regard. Given the deepening interdependence arising from globalization, holistic and participatory solutions should be sought and partnerships among the major stakeholders, donors, recipients and the public and private sector should be strengthened, in line with the initiative of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact.

98. His delegation attached great importance to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Monterrey in 2002. Given the importance of resource mobilization in economic growth and development, it was important to prepare for the Conference in the most practical manner, avoiding political rhetoric and unrealistic commitments.

99. The implementation of Agenda 21 had served as common ground in the pursuit of development goals. It was therefore to be hoped that the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, would provide the necessary platform for a review of the progress made since Rio and to map out a future strategy. His Government was considering making a contribution to the Trust Fund to enable developing countries to participate.

100. The emerging knowledge-based society to which information and communication technologies had given rise presented numerous opportunities and challenges. The digital revolution was a double-edged sword, particularly in terms of the digital divide, which undermined the growth potential of developing countries. In order to redress that situation, bold policies for developing human resources and strengthening institutional capacities must be adopted; accordingly, he welcomed the establishment of the ICT Task Force and the decision of ITU to hold the World Summit on the Information Society.

101. Despite recent economic setbacks, his Government wished to support development cooperation by gradually increasing its official development assistance. In the area of market access, it had removed tariffs on 80 commodities that were of major export interest to the least developed countries. His Government had also contributed to several facilities set up by the Bretton Woods institutions, such as the HIPC Trust Fund.

102. **Ms. Leonce** (Saint Lucia), after offering her condolences to all the families affected by the tragedy of 11 September, associated herself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the small island developing States and the Caribbean Community.

103. She recalled that at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, she had stated that the systemic imbalances and inequalities in the world economy and the institutions that regulated its functioning were the greatest threat to peace and democracy in the world, and that if that explosive situation was left unchecked, new tensions would emerge. Earlier, at the fifty-fourth session, she had also said that it was important not to be taken in by lofty speeches about partnership when the implacable logic of globalization was to decimate, to marginalize and to eliminate; she had stated that developing countries should join forces to ensure that the great wave of liberalization did not sweep them away, and to work for greater justice and solidarity, so that at the dawn of a new millennium the needs and interests of all would be taken into account.

104. Those statements had lost none of their relevance; the world was seeing the predictions they contained come true earlier than expected. At the time, her country had already been suffering the adverse consequences of globalization and trade liberalization, and it had warned other countries that a similar fate awaited them if they did not radically and urgently redress the deficiencies inherent in prevailing ideologies and economic theories. Thus, the developing countries had been asked to liberalize their economies and to integrate; they were now so integrated, so tied to the fate of a certain economy, that their fortunes were completely dependent on it, although they could not influence its policies. They had been asked to establish an environment conducive to capital flows, yet foreign direct investment flows to the developing countries were continually shrinking and were expected to diminish by another 6 per cent in 2001, especially since the climate in the developed countries was more uncertain, the risks were greater and investment returns were lower. Huge amounts of assistance had been promised, yet official development assistance had decreased. Developing countries had been advised to rely on the deregulated private sector rather than on government policies and actions, yet there was every reason to expect that private philanthropic activity would contract.

105. One of the most recent economic reports published in Geneva, entitled "Global Economic Trends and Prospects" (UNCTAD/GDS/Misc.21), offered a striking illustration of how everything that had been said to the developing countries was contradicted by objective data. It revealed, in particular, that without a coordinated global policy response, the slowing of the United States economy would produce a synchronous cyclical downturn in the world economy; that on the eve of the events of 11

September, global economic conditions had already been deteriorating, and that for the first time since the end of the 1970s much of the world economy was simultaneously experiencing slower growth, because the major industrialized countries were exporting their recession through trade and financial linkages. The report also stated that, according to preliminary estimates, the developing world would experience slower growth in its export volumes in 2001, and that growth forecasts had been revised downwards even prior to the terrorist attacks; the growth of volume of world trade was expected to drop to 4 per cent from 12 per cent in 2000, and the global volume of imports and exports would have difficulty withstanding the declines in the prices of primary commodities and of manufactured exports. The report concluded that the future of the world economy could not be left to the policy response of the United States to the recent events, that "business as usual" was no longer the right slogan for the world's policy makers, that the world must realize that unregulated financial markets could operate against the public interest by channelling resources in support of terror, and that developed and developing countries had common cause in finding constructive measures to better manage financial markets in the interest of all countries.

106. In 2000, her Government had denounced the change of direction towards peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance which the developed countries were in the process of imposing upon the United Nations and had clearly stated that the United Nations should concentrate on development, which was a prime factor in eliminating poverty and preventing war. The time had come to do some soul-searching and to ask whether the course of action followed thus far was not, in fact, responsible for the horror of poverty, which was the lot of the peoples of most developing countries. One could not continue to promote uncertainty and economic decline by putting the emphasis on early conflict management rather than on development, as shown by the distribution of the Organization's budget appropriations. If it wanted to remain useful and relevant to all peoples who were threatened by economic chaos the United Nations must accomplish its development mission. As the report stated, it was not possible simply to deal with current matters and allow a new wave of under-development to sweep through and not be concerned about the equitable and coherent implementation of the Uruguay Round negotiations. The developing countries should be accorded special and differentiated treatment and provided with technical assistance, the Centre on Transnational Corporations within the United Nations Secretariat should be re-established, and the relations between WTO and the United Nations system should be regularized.

107. In fact, by not taking those fundamental aspects into account one was perpetuating the prevailing unjust system which was leading to increased poverty, violence and death. In the face of the threats she had described her country was keen to work with other delegations to achieve the Charter objectives of improving the well-being of all countries, developed as well as developing.

108. **Mr. Ling** (Belarus) noted that the Committee's work at the current session was unusual in that it had to be seen in the context of preparations for a series of important international events concerning development, namely the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. There was no doubt about the complementary and interdependent nature of the agendas of those conferences. It was reasonable to hope that the meetings would contribute to creating a firm basis for achieving the agreed development objectives as set out in the documents adopted by major United Nations conferences and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration. But it was clear that there was no way those objectives could be achieved without stable, adequate and predictable financial resources. The International Conference on Financing for Development had a particular, specific role to play in that regard. For the first time, the United Nations, which was coordinating the partnership links established between Governments, the Bretton Woods institutions, the private sector and civil society, would really have an opportunity to make a contribution to the achievement of a new consensus on issues of principle related to the mobilization of financial resources for development. His delegation noted with satisfaction that, in the context of preparations for that conference, consideration was currently being given to a series of very interesting specific proposals and recommendations relating to finding new sources of financing, and it was ready to play an active part in the corresponding work.

109. The search for new methods of financing development objectives must not cause one to lose

sight of the existing mechanisms and agreements which had not been fully exploited. In that context, external trade policy played a key role. His delegation unreservedly supported one of the recommendations the Secretary-General had made to the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development, in which he had pointed out that widening the access of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition to markets for their export products could produce more significant results than direct financial assistance, provided that there was a simultaneous effort to develop their production potential. That recommendation was of particular importance for a country such as Belarus which had an extremely open economy broadly geared to exports. His delegation sincerely hoped that the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference would be able to find solutions to ensure full implementation of the decisions of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and to lay the bases for a new series of negotiations that would focus on development.

110. All the positive results of the above-mentioned meetings convened by WTO and the United Nations should provide a solid basis for the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in 2002. The international community had established enough mechanisms and instruments in the area of sustainable development; however, their effectiveness thus far had often been found wanting, especially because adequate resources were not available for financing the corresponding activities. It was therefore extremely important to include questions concerning financing and the transfer of technology among the priorities for the preparations of the Johannesburg Summit.

111. **Mr. Kyazze** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) associated himself with the remarks made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the 11 September terrorist attack. UNESCO traditionally monitored very closely the deliberations of the Second Committee because they addressed a number of cross-cutting issues that were intimately linked to the mandate of his organization, notably communication, science and many aspects of sustainable development, such as human resources development. His organization was all the more motivated as a specialized agency to involve itself more intensely in the work of the Committee. Moreover, the Secretary-General had indicated in his report on the work of the Organization (A/56/1) that UNESCO was a member of the United Nations Development Group and was thus in a much better position to contribute to the system-wide development action, not only with respect to operational activities and related commitments, but also the less spectacular, yet equally vital aspects of development, such as culture in development.

112. UNESCO looked forward to contributing to the discussions and to providing advice to members of the Committee during informal consultations in its fields of competence. It hoped that the Committee would continue its work aimed at mainstreaming the contribution of specialized agencies into the broader endeavour of the United Nations system, especially with particular reference to science and technology, for which UNESCO had a specific mandate, even though debates under that item tended to focus on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. UNESCO also attached considerable importance to the World Solar Programme. It pledged to provide continued support to that Programme and looked forward to similar support from the Committee. As far as poverty eradication was concerned, his organization's strategy was organically linked to its education for all programmes, which the Committee was invited to keep in mind.

113. Turning to the least developed countries, he noted that the General Assembly, and the Second Committee in particular, had the daunting challenge of working towards the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. For its part, UNESCO believed that the development of human resources of the least developed countries, notably through education and training, could be instrumental to that end. There should be a considerable increase in investment in human resources development.

114. In his address to the special session of the Economic and Social Council on Sustainable Development in Africa, the Director-General of UNESCO had noted that the complexities of the contemporary world required sound scientific bases for decision-making. UNESCO could draw on its unique comparative advantage of combining natural and human sciences under one roof. He therefore urged members of the Committee to keep in mind his

organization's readiness to contribute its share to the global effort of the United Nations system towards the achievement of a balanced and sustainable human development.

The meeting rose at 12:55 p.m.